

MEDIA RELEASE	SAPS: PSA welcomes announcement of digitising dockets and possible launch of e-lab
DATE	14 April 2025
EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing thousands of Police Officers, welcomes the recent announcement at the inaugural Police Summit by the Minister of Police to digitalise dockets and the possible launch of an e-lab to improve efficiency in the SA Police Service (SAPS).

The PSA repeatedly raised concerns about backlogs in the SAPS Laboratory Services. These have resulted in several cases being thrown out of court owing to a lack of conclusive DNA evidence, especially in rape cases that have spiralled out of control in South Africa. It is pleasing to learn that the Minister is admitting the shortfalls in the department that he is leading as he indicated that the current number of Police Officers does not correlate with the population size. He further attributed the high rate of crime and corruption in the four biggest provinces to inadequate policing, which is adversely impacted by the prevailing understaffing. The challenges of gender-based violence and femicide cases, the murder rate, drugs, and easy access to firearms were also highlighted at the Summit. The President was also in attendance and voiced concern about corruption in the SAPS, which undermines trust and law enforcement efforts.

The PSA calls on the Minister that commitments made at the Summit are indeed implemented. The announcement by the Minister to increase the number of laboratories, including e-labs, which is made possible by the collaboration with business, is commendable. This has been a long-standing recommendation to the Minister by the PSA. The PSA further proposed advanced laboratory research centres in institutions of higher learning to assist the SAPS.

The digitization of dockets will assist in saving critical information on servers and no dockets will be reported missing if this is fully implemented. All these efforts will, however, be meaningless if the Minister does not address the inadequate staffing in the SAPS. The Department needs more Police Officers and administrative staff in response to the growing needs.

END